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Docket No.: IIW-032

(PATENT)

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Dated: September 7, 2006 Signature:

(Anthony A. Laurentano)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Toshiaki Ariyoshi *et al.*

Application No.: 10/676060

776060 Confirmation No.: 7744

Filed: October 3, 2003

Art Unit: 1745

For: FUEL CELL

Examiner: M. Ruthkosky

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed August 8, 2006 (Paper No. 20060803).

The Examiner has required restriction between the following species in the aboveidentified application:

Claim 1 is to a fuel cell with a plurality of cells, a plurality of separators with terminals on the same side of a fuel cell stack and processing circuit;

Claims 2 and 4 are to a fuel cell comprising terminal clusters and a plurality of connector modules; and

Claims 3 and 5 are to a fuel cell comprising a fuel cell stack including a plurality of clusters of cells and sheet form bodies.

Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect the Species of Claim 1 for continued examination, with traverse.

The Commissioner may require restriction if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in a single application (37 CFR 1.142(a)). In the present case, although

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the claimed subject matter may be classified in different classes, the inventions are not independent. Applicants respectfully assert that a single search of pertinent prior art would appear to suffice for all aspects of the invention. Specifically, the various species appear to be so interrelated that a single examination would not appear to place a serious burden on the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant urges the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the restriction

requirement.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that all of the claims presently pending in this application be examined.

Dated: September 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Laurenjano Registration No.:/38,220

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Boston, Massachusetts 02109

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Attorney/Agent For Applicants

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Attorney Docket No.: IIW-032

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